

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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ACTION SS-30

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R 051052Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8362

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 3806

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRA PFOR SO ET

SUBJ: SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS: FREDERICKS'S VISIT

REF: STATE 67860

THERE FOLLOW EMBASSY'S COMMENTS REQUESTED REFTEL:

1. ENDALKACHEW CM'S CURRENT FOCUS, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, IS ON ESSENTIALS ITS POLITICAL SURVIVAL. MOFA WHEELS BARELY TURNING OVER. FONMIN'S POSITION WITHIN CABINET ONE OF MORE OR LESS EXPLICIT CRITICISM OF OTHER HOLDOVER, THE PRIME MINISTER. FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, WE THINK, ONLY LIKELY BE CONSIDERED AT CABINET LEVEL TO EXTENT THEY HAVE DIRECT IMMEDIATE BEARING ON ESSENTIALS.

2. AS EMPIRE INCREASINGLY FEELS STRESSES AND STRAINS OF TRANSITION IN WHICH IT NOW ENGAGED, QUESTION OF US ATTITUDE TOWARDS EVENTS HERE IS MATTER OF GREAT MOMENT FOR IEG. NOW MORE THAN EVER ETHIOPIAN LEADERS FEAR THE LOSS OF US INTEREST IN THEIR COUNTRY.

3. CONCLUSION WE DRAW FROM FOREGOING IS TWOFOLD: WE DO NOT THINK ATTEMPT AT PROBLEM-SOLVING BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA IS TIMELY IN CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. PROBLEM IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AT BEST AND IEG UNLIKELY WISH ASSUME FURTHER RISKS INHERENT MORE FLEXIBLE POSTURE. REFORM PRESSURES UPON IT ARE NOT RPT

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NOT FAVORABLE TO ETHIOPIAN CONCESSIONS TOWARDS SOMALIA.
CURRENT TRANSITION IS TIME FOR MAXIMUM CLARITY WE CAN

MUSTER AT OUR END OF BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. IT IS NOT
OPPORTUNE NOW TO DEAL WITH DELICATE, DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIPS
THROUGH UNOFFICIAL SPOKESMAN WHOSE ROLE AND PURPOSE PREFORCE
AMBIGUOUS.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL UNDERSTAND THAT OUR VIEWS ARE GOVERNED BY
SITUATION HERE AND OUR JUDGEMENT ITS IMPLICATIONS IN
THIS DOMAIN. WE HAVE HIGHEST REGARD FOR WAYNE FREDERICKS,
HIS EXPERIENCE AND PROBITY.
WYMAN

SECRET

NNN

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